

WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF
CLAUSE 4(b) OF RULE XI WITH
RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF
CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS RE-
PORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE
ON RULES

Mr. SOLOMON (during the special order of Mr. EHRLICH) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-216) on the resolution (H. Res. 201) waiving a requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

□ 1745

ACCORD ON TAX CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my good friend, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH], who will be joining us shortly on the floor. The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] and I certainly extend an invitation to our colleague, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] as well to join us in a very important day, Mr. Speaker.

We have an agreement. We just came off the steps of the House of Representatives and told the American people a lot of the things that we have been debating over the last 3 years in this town.

I notice I am joined now by my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH], my good friend.

Mr. Speaker, days like today get us thinking about where we came from and where we are and where we are going. Because in politics, Mr. Speaker, you cannot always get what you want. Sometimes you can get what you need, to paraphrase the rock and roll song.

Today, people of different political philosophies came together and signed an accord. Included in that accord are many things we have debated on this House floor over the last 3 years, many items in the Contract with America, many items that brought the last couple of freshman classes to this town, particularly the 104th freshman class, of which the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] and I are members.

I cannot help but thinking about President Reagan and President Bush today, tax cuts from President Reagan. President Bush was the victim of some demagoguery of such class warfare rhetoric about cutting capital gains for rich people and the class warfare we see on this floor time and time again on a daily basis. Yet, we bring the American people a significant capital gains tax cut.

Is it zero? No. Should it be zero? In my view, and in the view of many of us,

yes. But is 28 down to 20 a step in the right direction? You better believe it. And that is the nature of dividing government. The folks that control this Congress are pretty much to the right of center philosophically. The folks that control that big house down the street are to the left of center.

We have vastly different views of the role of government in our lives. We have a vastly different philosophical orientation. Yet today, we have come before the American people with an agreement.

I am really happy to be joined by my really good friend, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH], one of the leaders of this Congress, 105th Congress. I keep thinking of the 104th Congress. And we are going to talk about a few specific items, a few specific initiatives in this particular package.

I know my friend from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] wants to make a few words of introduction, as well.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, today is a tremendous day. We have seen people from all generations of politics come together for an agreement where the American people are the winners.

The gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] and I were fortunate enough to come in in the 1994 elections with that freshman class, now sophomore class. The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], chairman of the Committee on Rules, has been here quite a bit longer. But all of us can celebrate.

Frankly, I think we do need to say thank you to President Clinton for agreeing to sign this legislation, thank you to Speaker GINGRICH, thank you to leader TRENT LOTT, and thank you to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER] and the others who have worked to negotiate out this bill.

It is the American people who are the winners in the bottom line. We came here with the promise to cut taxes and shrink Government. We came here with the promise to change the way Washington does business. I do not want to tell my colleagues that we have accomplished everything in this bill. But we have made a tremendous step forward. In particular, I was delighted to see that we are now going to have the \$500 tax credit for children become part of the law in this land so that families who need that money will be able to benefit from that.

I would like to share with my colleagues, if I may, Mr. Speaker, an example of a family that I know from my hometown of Muncie. It is a young man and his wife who have worked hard to get ahead in this country, Gerald Hunt and Debra Darnall. They make about \$30,000 a year. Gerald and Debra work in their own independent business. He is a contractor. They will benefit from this plan because they have two daughters and their daughters will qualify them to get \$1,000 more each year in their take-home pay because the Government will not be taking it in taxes.

What does that mean for the Darnalls? It means a lot, I will tell my

colleagues that. It means six bags of groceries each week will be paid for by this tax cut that we are going to pass this week, 2 months' worth of groceries in all, real dollars to fill their gas tanks. At about 20 bucks a week, that is 50 weeks, the whole year, that they can put gas in their gas tanks because the Government is not taking that money out the Darnalls' paycheck; new school clothes for Kellie and Ashlee, who will grow out of their school clothes every year and need that \$1,000 in order to help them. Or if the Darnalls decide to start saving today in order to send their two daughters to college, we now have a new savings plan that will allow them to put aside money for those two girls to go to college and not have to pay taxes on the interest that that money earns in that savings account.

This new IRA for education will mean that literally millions of Americans can afford to send their children to college who may not have had any hope to do that for a better future. I am very proud of what we have done today. Those are just a few of the details in our tax bill.

I look forward in the next hour to working with the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] in explaining to the American people what all of us, Democrats, Republicans, all Americans can be proud of the work that is being done today in Washington to finally cut taxes for working families in this country.

I look forward to having a discussion with the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] now about the details of that.

Mr. EHRLICH. It is easy to discuss these issues with the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] because we agree and it is nice.

Mr. MCINTOSH. If the gentleman would yield, the great thing, though, is that President Clinton is going to sign this bill and our colleagues across the aisle are going to help us pass it. So it is not going to be a partisan rancor. We won the day, I think, on some of these issues. We are going to have a tax cut finally, but we won by joining together and all sides agreeing to go do that for the American people.

Mr. EHRLICH. Reclaiming my time, could we have received odds on this tax cut being signed 6 months ago, I think the odds would have been very long. I think the American people will wake up tomorrow somewhat surprised that this deal got done, and not only that there was an agreement made, but that the agreement was made with numbers that are not phoney, real numbers and real tax cuts and real entitlement reform and real policy initiatives, not the phoney stuff we see coming out of this town so often.

There are two taxes that I know are near and dear to the heart of my friend from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH], and they have been near and dear to my heart. We have campaigned on these taxes, as two Members who pride themselves on